

region but also in the nation, the Consortium has received numerous requests to create a national organization with a similar focus.

The impact WACUC will have over the next five to 10 years is difficult to imagine. In its short 2½-year tenure, it has brought together organizations that normally do not interact. It has served as a catalyst to connect corporations and government to private and higher education institutions, to develop educational experiences for employees that are tailored to their specific needs, and to address the vision of each organization. The WACUC will continue to provide a source of support and advice to its members for years to come.

The most important thing that WACUC accomplishes, however, is bringing together all the stockholders of an effective workforce. It connects expertise across organizational boundaries. The challenges for the future include the need to continue to assess the needs of its members and use this information to design and deliver timely and targeted professional development and networking opportunities.

In the future, WACUC will establish a research agenda and will formulate questions, collect data, analyze experiences, and disseminate findings on issues related to corporate universities, their operations, and indicators of their success. In addition, the WACUC will create a

database and begin to collect and disseminate information related to organizations engaged in workforce learning activities. It will serve as a source of support and information for its member organizations and the broader corporate university community.

WACUC benefits the local community by providing a source of information and support for organizations interested in providing appropriate and effective educational experiences for their employees. It also assists them to identify and contact private organizations and institutions of higher education that can assist them in this process.

On a national level, WACUC's members have delivered presentations at national and international conferences on corporate universities and partnerships in the business, government, and higher education arenas. One of WACUC's future visions is the development of an online WACUC community where members can make contributions of knowledge "objects" and enter into collaborative activities that will help job performance and continuous learning.

WACUC Members

At present, the consortium consists of 60 members, representing 30 organizations. In addition to DAU, other member organizations include Booz, Alan & Hamilton; the Erickson Foundation; The George Washington University; Corpo-

rate University Enterprise; National Institute of Standards and Technology; Regent University; United States Postal Service; the Pentagon Federal Credit Union; the Patent and Trademark University; Anne Arundel Community College; United States Bureau of Census; University of Maryland; the Washington Post; the Humane Society of the United States; Northern Virginia Community College; and Johns Hopkins University.

WACUC and DAU

WACUC's role in the education of the Acquisition Workforce has been to assist DAU, a member and a major WACUC corporate sponsor, in making connections with institutions of higher education to address educational needs. At present, DAU is working closely with Northern Virginia Community College and Johns Hopkins University.

The WACUC organization and conference activity itself is the first step toward sharing of knowledge in a shared practice of education and training. DAU experiences and achievements in the development of online CoPs and e-Learning programs will help other consortium members in their similar journeys.

Editor's Note: To read more about the WACUC and its activities or how to become a member, visit the WACUC Web site at <http://www.wacuc.com>.

COSSI PROJECT CALL

The Commercial Operations and Support Savings Initiative (COSSI) has issued its project call. Proposals may be submitted by any DoD organization and are due May 31, 2002. Proposals submitted by non-DoD organizations will not be accepted. A non-DoD organization wishing to take part in the COSSI Program should work with an appropriate DoD organization and have that organization submit a proposal.

More information about this project call, including all necessary forms, is included at: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/es/dut/cossi/FY03/ProjectCall.html>

